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Security Council
Forty-ninth Year

Provisional

3457th Meeting
Tuesday, 15 November 1994, 11 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Albright	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Cárdenas
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	China	Mr. Li Zhaoxing
	Czech Republic	Mr. Kovanda
	Djibouti	Mr. Olhaye
	France	Mr. Ladsous
	New Zealand	Ms. Wong
	Nigeria	Mr. Ayewah
	Oman	Mr. Al-Khussaiby
	Pakistan	Mr. Niaz
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	Rwanda	Mr. Bakuramutsa
	Spain	Mr. Laclaustra
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Arkwright

Agenda

The situation concerning Western Sahara

Report by the Secretary-General (S/1994/1257)

94-87067 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Western Sahara

Report by the Secretary-General (S/1994/1257)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report by the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara, document S/1994/1257.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council notes the report of the Secretary-General dated 5 November 1994 (S/1994/1257). It shares the Secretary-General's view that the launching of the identification and registration of potential voters on 28 August 1994, in the presence of the observers as agreed, marked a significant step towards the fulfilment of the United Nations mandate on Western Sahara.

"The Security Council calls on the two parties to maintain their cooperation with the Secretary-General and MINURSO in their efforts to implement as soon as possible the Settlement Plan in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Council.

"The Security Council is, however, concerned about the slow speed of the identification process, in particular the fact that only a very small proportion of the potential voters have been identified and interviewed to date. While recognizing the difficulties involved, including the handling of a large number of last-minute applications, the Council urges the two parties to exert all possible efforts to facilitate MINURSO's work and urges the earliest possible deployment of the Identification Commission staff already approved by the General Assembly (resolution 48/250 B of 13 July 1994) in order to accelerate this process.

"The Security Council welcomes the Secretary-General's decision to visit the region later this month, and hopes that on this occasion he will be able to report significant progress towards implementing the Settlement Plan and holding the now long-overdue referendum. It looks forward to receiving his report following this visit and following the report of the technical team, charged with reassessing the logistic and other requirements for possible deployment of MINURSO at full strength. In the light of that report, including information on progress achieved in the work of the Identification Commission as well as other aspects relevant to the fulfilment of the Settlement Plan, the Council hopes to be able to take appropriate decisions on the organization and timing of the referendum. In doing so it strongly believes that there must be no further undue delay in the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with the Settlement Plan."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1994/67.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.